IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 4, 12, 14, 15, and 17, in accordance with the following:

1. (CANCELLED)

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A surface light source device of side light type, comprising:

a light guide plate having an incidence end surface, an exiting surface and an incline surface inclined so that the light guide plate gradually decreases away from the incidence end surface in thickness;

a reflecting sheet disposed along the inclined surface of the light guide plate;

a primary light source supplying illumination light to said light guide plate from said incidence end surface, the supplied light being deflected in the light guide plate and emitted from the exiting surface of the light guide plate; and

a light control element disposed along the exiting surface of said light guide plate, the light control element extending in a plane, having a light entrance side with a prismatic surface adjacent to said light guide plate, and having a light emitting side, spaced from the light entrance side,

said prismatic surface having repeated projections, each having first and second slopes inclined with respect to the plane of said light control element, said first slopes being light source side slopes directed to said incidence end face of the light guide plate to receive incidence light from said light ~~control element~~guide plate and said second slopes being directed oppositely to said incidence end face of the light guide plate to deflect the received incidence light traveling in a defined direction after being received by undiffused incidence surfaces of the first slopes and while within the light control element,

wherein the second slopes define ~~a~~ light diffusible surfaces within the light control element to generate diffused light when the light emanating within the light control element ~~,~~ from the first slopes is incident within the light control element along the defined direction to said second slopes while traveling within said light control element, such that a surface of the light emitting side within the light control element is illuminated in a substantially uniform manner~~,~~ to reduce~~ing~~ light effects of the reflecting sheet caused by defined directional reflection of light by the reflection sheet toward the light control element and to secure a desired angle of field of vision of light after emission from the light control element.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A surface light source device of side light type according to claim 4, wherein said projections extend in one common direction and are repeatedly arranged in a direction perpendicularly to said one common direction, each of said projections having a substantially triangular cross section.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A surface light source device of side light type according to claim 4, wherein said light diffusible surface is a rough surface.

7-8. (CANCELLED)

9. (ORIGINAL) A surface light source device of side light type according to claim 5, wherein said light diffusible surface is a rough surface.

10. (CANCELLED)

11. (CANCELLED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A light control element, extending in a plane and spaced from a reflecting sheet, to direct light emitted from a light source, comprising:

a light entrance side to receive the light emitted from the light source and exiting from a light guide plate, that includes a prismatic surface having repeated sequential projections of first and second slopes respectively inclined with respect to the plane of said light control element; and

a light emitting side, spaced from the light entrance side, to emit diffused light passing through said light control element from the light entrance side toward the light emitting side,

wherein surfaces, within the light control element, of the second slopes define light diffusible surfaces to generate the diffused light while the light emitted from the light source is radiating within the light control element, after entry into the light control element through an undiffused incidence ~~-~~with the respective first slopes, toward the light emitting side along a defined direction toward respective second slopes such that a surface of the light emitting side within the light control element is illuminated in a substantially uniform manner~~,~~ to reduce~~ing~~ light effects of the reflecting sheet caused by defined directional light exiting from the light guide plate toward the light control element and to secure a desired angle of field of vision of light after exit from the light emitting side of the light control element.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A light control element according to claim 12, wherein said repeated projections extend in one common direction and are repeatedly arranged in a direction perpendicular to said one common direction, each of said repeated projections having a substantially triangular cross section.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A light control element according to claim 12, wherein said light diffusible surfaces ~~is~~ are ~~a~~ rough surfaces.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A surface light source device of side light type, comprising:

a light guide plate having an incidence end surface, an exiting surface and an incline surface gradually decreasing away from the incidence end surface;

a reflecting sheet disposed along the inclined surface of the light guide plate;

a primary light source supplying illumination light to said light guide plate from said incidence end surface, the supplied light being deflected in the light guide plate and emitted from the exiting surface of the light guide plate; and

a light control element disposed along the exiting surface of said light guide plate, the light control element extending in a plane, having a light entrance side with a prismatic surface adjacent to said light guide plate, and having a light emitting side, spaced from the light entrance side, said prismatic surface having repeated sequential projections of first and second slopes respectively inclined with respect to the plane of said light control element, with surfaces, within the light control element, of the second slopes define light diffusible surfaces to generate diffused light while the light emanating from the light guide plate is radiating within the light control element, after entry into the light control element through an undiffused incidence with

the respective first slopes along a defined direction toward respective second slopes, such that a surface of the light emitting side within the light control element is illuminated in a substantially uniform manner, to reduceing light effects of the reflecting sheet caused by defined directional reflection of light by the reflection sheet toward the light control element and to secure a desired angle of field of vision of light after emission from the light control element.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A surface light source device of side light type according to claim 15, wherein said projections extend in one common direction and are repeatedly arranged in a direction perpendicularly to said one common direction, each of said projections having a substantially triangular cross section.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A surface light source device of side light type according to claim 15, wherein said light diffusible surfaces is are a rough surfaces.

18-22. (CANCELED)